



## TALKING POINTS: Stem Cell Research

**OUR PRINCIPLE:** *House Republicans support ethical scientific research that does not depend on the destruction of life.*

**Federal funding for stem cell research has increased by 60% since 2004, and was nonexistent before 2001.** (*Wall Street Journal, 4/4/06*)

**Frozen embryos are pre-born human beings that are not automatically destined for destruction. They can be and have been matched with adoptive families.** The resulting births are called “snowflake” children because each is fragile and unique.

- One adoption agency has matched hundreds of parents and donor embryos, resulting in the birth of 99 children since 1997. (*Nightlight Christian Adoptions*)

**The Democrat record on stem cell research is inconsistent.** Democrats have voted to pass legislation that would provide federal funding for stem cell research techniques that results in the destruction of live, healthy, unborn human embryos; however, many of the same Democrats opposed GOP legislation to do the same research without threatening life.

- More than 180 Democrats voted for legislation to federally fund stem cell research techniques that involves destruction of live, healthy, unborn human embryos – embryos capable of growing into healthy human adults.
- Nearly 140 House Democrats voted against Republican legislation that would support stem cell research not involving the destruction of human embryos. The 2006 legislation authorized additional federal funding for research that could produce cells with the abilities of embryonic cells, but without the destruction of human embryos. The bill was unanimously approved by the Senate. (*Roll Call Vote# 380*)

**The stem cell issue is a major test for pro-life Members.** Numerous Democrats claim to be pro-life. Will they oppose a bill subsidizing the destruction of healthy, living human embryos, or will they violate their promises and vote lockstep with their Democratic leaders?

**The science behind embryonic stem cells is inconclusive.** There has been little conclusive evidence that embryonic stem cells can be used successfully in medical treatments, while adult stem cells are already being used to treat at least 65 different diseases and disorders. (*Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics, 7/19/05*)

\* *NOTE: The White House indicates the President will again veto an embryonic stem cell bill.*